

Executive Summary

Roll No. 4213

The dissertation has tried to look critically into the economic problems in hilly areas of Uttarakhand. There is a high order of disparity in every walk of life in these two regions. The plains of Uttarakhand is far well developed in almost all the sectors be it be agriculture, horticulture, tourism, education, transports connectivity and in industrial sectors but it is the hill areas of the state in which the people have to undergo drudgeries in order to earn their livelihood. The people of the hill region of the state is have been migrating to nearby states to earn their lively hood. The dissertation has been divided in seven chapters viz: Uttarakhand - Issues in Hills, Literature review, Horticulture in Uttarakhand, Sustainability through Agriculture, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP), Sustainability through Tourism, Way Forward.

Literature review presents the research works of many authors such as Aggrawal J C and Agarwal S P , Dewan M L, Bahadur Jagdish , Dhobal G L , Gautam Padam Nabh, Kar Sabyasachi, Malhotra, S.P, Mittal Surabhi , Tripathi Gaurav, Sethi Deepti , Pai Rekha, T S Papola, BK Joshi,H S Verrma, R C Sinha who have researched into the economic problems of the hills of Uttarakhand and have suggested some way forward as well.

‘Horticulture in Uttarakhand’ describes that horticulture is one of the important means of livelihood generation which can provide a considerable respite from the tough life situations of the people of this hill state. Horticulture is also a critical sector in the economy of the Uttarakhand as it provides the much needed opportunity for diversification in agriculture, especially in the context of peculiar topography and agro-climatic conditions of the hill states where the scope for production of conventional field crops is limited. Horticulture development is an effective tool for accelerating development in hilly areas due to limited

land available for cultivation, availability of cultivable waste lands and necessity of supplementary job and income opportunities. However, large scale policy interventions are required to promote this sector.

‘Sustainability through Agriculture’ puts forward that in the state, farmers adopt generally two types of agricultural practices i.e. the rain fed and the irrigated. Most of the agriculture in the state is rain fed. The net irrigated area of the state stands at 3.38 lakh hectares (2009-2010). The net irrigated area to net sown area for the state is 45 percent. Being large area under hills, irrigation is available mostly in the plains and valleys. So there is a need to generate alternate sources of irrigation to increase the net irrigated area, which in turn shall also increase the cropping intensity of the state. These alternative sources can be rainwater harvesting, check dams, hydro dams for lift irrigation etc. Technologies like drip irrigation, sprinklers etc. can also be used for better water management.

‘Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP)’ describes that the State is blessed with thousands of species, however; about 320 species have been identified in terms of their medicinal value. The Forest Department claims to have knowledge of about 175 species, which are being commercially extracted and traded. The experts estimate that in terms of value, the state is well positioned to generate revenue of about Rs.1, 000 crores per annum through H & MP (Herbal and Medicinal Plants) alone in raw form. The chapter further describes as what can be the way forward in MAP in order to make the hills of Uttarakhand sustainably developed.

Chapter on ‘Sustainability through Tourism’ states that Uttarakhand is rich in natural resources especially water and forests with many glaciers, dense forests and rivers making it an ideal destination for adventure, leisure and ecotourism. It is endowed with topographic diversity, pristine natural beauty and religious shrines. Besides its natural beauty, Uttarakhand also offers many adventure tourism opportunities in the form of trekking, skiing,

para-gliding, camping, mountaineering and rock climbing. The economy of the State has been largely dominated by the services sector including tourism which contributes over 51% to the total GSDP(Gross State Domestic Product) from 2004-05 to 2013-14. Tourism is already a major driver of economic growth and livelihood promotion in Uttarakhand.

The last chapter on 'Way Forward' brings the summary of possible way forwards in area of horticulture, agriculture, MAP and tourism in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand which and bring out some realizable solutions which can bring about the sustainable development in the state.
